

REMARKS

Minor corrections have been made to the Specification. Claims 1 and 2 have been amended. Claims 1-4 remain pending. Reconsideration and reexamination of the application, as amended are requested.

The Examiner recommended that the word "for" be deleted from the claims. Applicant has considered the Examiner's remarks, and the claims have been appropriately amended.

The Examiner rejected claim 2 under 35 USC §103(a) as being obvious on consideration of Kurokawa et al. in view of Ballard.

Kurokawa discloses an electric power steering device. Kurokawa does not disclose a worm having a single thread.

Ballard discloses a self-locking mechanical steering helm for a boat. Although Ballard shows a worm with a single thread, Ballard points out the following in column 1, lines 31-36:

"The problem with the prior art arrangements is that such helms are free wheeling and susceptible to steering torque and back driving. The same problem also exists in conventional variations of the above-described mechanical helm, such as drum, rotary, or rack and pinion helm systems."

Thus, the problems which Ballard is attempting to solve is a problem which exists with rack and pinion systems. Claim 2 requires a steering system with a rack and pinion assembly. Thus, Ballard teaches away from structure claimed in the apparatus of claim 2. Claim 2 does not follow from the cited references and is non-obvious there over.

Applicant acknowledges the allowance of claim 1 and the allowability of claims 3 and 4.

In view of the above, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and reexamination are requested. Allowance of all pending claims at an early date is solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Dated: September 1, 2004

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